

# Ann Arbor



# Observer

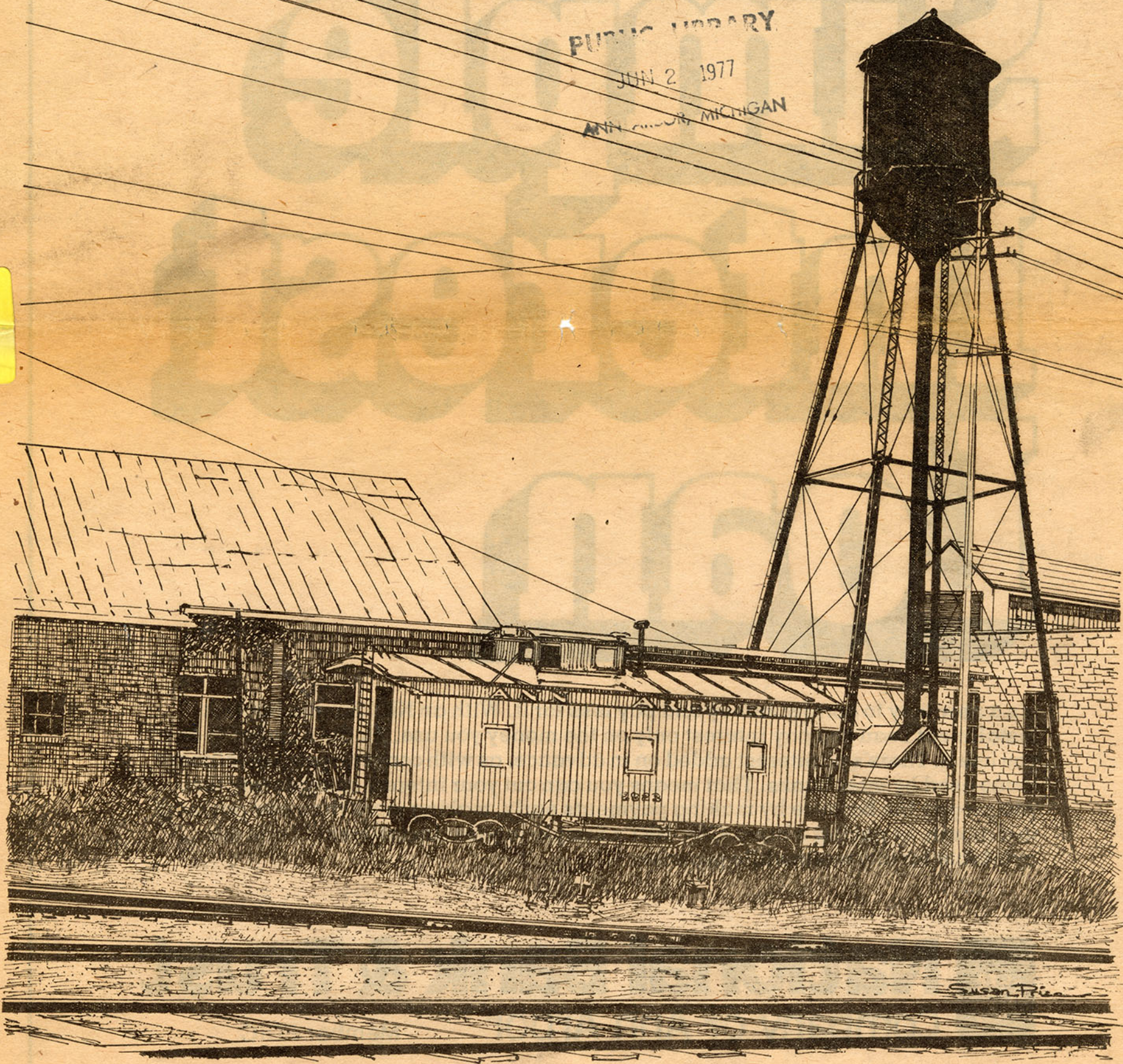
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# The Lansdowne Controversy

*For 27 days recently nearly all new construction in Ann Arbor came to a halt. It was a Republican neighborhood, of all things, that made it happen.*

"As it now stands it appears to the court that the time has come to grasp the nettle firmly. . . . The City of Ann Arbor shall be enjoined from issuing any building permits or sewer connection authorizations which will result in any increase in the flow of sewage treatment effluent discharge in violation of the discharge permit under which the said City of Ann Arbor is operating, until further notice of the court."

—March 30th decision of  
Judge Robert V. Fink

THE implication was immediately clear: Judge Fink was telling the city that because the treatment of its sewage is significantly below the standards set by the state, virtually no new construction or major remodeling would likely be permitted until its new sewage plant was completed some time in 1980. City officials were stunned at being handed such a sweeping fiat. It would mean most workers in the local construction industry would be out of jobs and that many attractive new projects would have to be delayed for years. Even those Ann Arborites who are anti-growth, and there are a good number, would sooner or later find that it is undesirable to shut down all construction, period, in a city.

But there was a precise logic to Fink's order. The state's Water Resources Commission gives all Michigan cities specific criteria for the quality of effluent (treated sewage water) discharged into rivers and lakes. Since the late 1960's, Ann Arbor has fallen far short of meeting those standards. Its sewage treatment plant is designed to handle significantly less sewage than the typical amount entering it daily.

Sewage treatment plants depend on a settling process to remove much of the sewage water's impurities. When twenty or thirty million gallons of sewage a day enters a plant like Ann Arbor's which is designed to handle only fifteen million gallons a day, the impurities are rushed through the plant too quickly and don't have a chance to settle out. They therefore end up in the effluent pumped into the Huron River.

Moreover, when there is a lot of rain, Ann Arbor's sewage treatment plant eventually becomes completely overloaded, and the raw sewage backs up and automatically by-passes the plant al-



Plan reviewer Terry Alexander of Ann Arbor's Department of Building and Safety: swamped by scores of plans as builders rush to get permits for their projects in case the ban on sewer hookups is reimposed.

together. At such times the raw sewage is dumped straight into the Huron. This happened about a dozen times in 1976 alone.

One might wonder, then, not at the severity of Judge Fink's decision, but at why it was not made long before March 30th. There are two major reasons the state has not recommended such a drastic measure:

1. The city has not been as wantonly indifferent to its sewage treatment problems as it might appear. With few exceptions, cities depend on federal and state funds to pay up to 80% of the cost for expanding sewage treatment capabilities. As long ago as 1968, Ann Arbor applied for such funds with the intention of expanding its facilities. But the city's application was blocked by the state during what was called the "super-sewer controversy."

The super-sewer controversy centered around the attempts of Wayne County to get most surrounding communities to pipe their sewage to a treatment plant located on Lake Erie. Ann Arbor, along with other cities, was adamantly opposed to losing control over its own sewage treatment process. And environmentalists pointed out that the super-sewer would cost Ann Arbor citizens

more, yet ultimately send the sewage to a plant which would treat it less thoroughly than the proposed new local plant.

So it wasn't until 1976 that Ann Arbor finally won the super-sewer battle, and the Water Resources Commission approved its application to build a new plant. But due to the amount of bureaucratic red-tape required to process the city's application for state and federal funding, construction on the new plant isn't expected to get underway until late this year. It should be completed in 1980.

The state's Water Resources Commission, which closely monitors the quality of Ann Arbor's effluent, has viewed Ann Arbor as making a good-faith effort to expand its facilities. Its position is that the best way to enforce the standards in this case is by prodding Ann Arbor to complete its plant expansion as quickly as possible.

2. Even though the city is significantly exceeding the WRC's standards, it is far from clear just what effect the city's effluent is having on the Huron River. Nothing suggests that the river's water below Ann Arbor is so impure as to present a health hazard. Furthermore, so far no one has been able to point to any concrete evidence that the river's

plant and animal life is being affected by the effluent. For example, in recent years game fish have been introduced at several points in the river below Ann Arbor, and they appear to be doing well.

This is not to say that the river is *not* being harmed by the city's effluent, only that no clear evidence has been gathered which would suggest that this is the case. Such evidence would have put a lot more pressure on the city to improve the quality of its effluent.

The lack of hard evidence that the city is harming the river will be the city's main basis for appealing Judge Fink's decision. So drastic a remedy as shutting down all construction in a city when no concrete harmful effects can be demonstrated is unprecedented, says City Attorney Bruce Laidlaw.

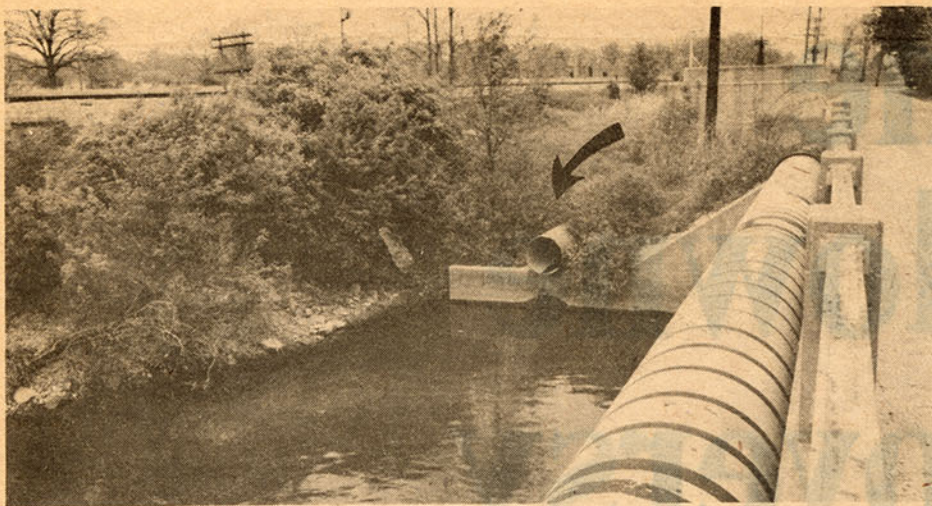
Judge Fink, on the other hand, uses the analogy of a speed limit to justify his decision. No one can say that a person who speeds has necessarily harmed anyone, he argues. Penalties for excessive speeding exist because of the added *probability* of harmful effects. The same thing applies, he believes, to the state's environmental quality standards.

The city has appealed Judge Fink's decision, and until that appeal has been heard, the ban on sewer hookups has been lifted. But the definite threat of its reimposition remains.

## Harris Says No

IT was not the state which asked the court to clamp down on the city, but rather a neighborhood association, which filed a class action suit back in 1973. Ironically, their concern for the quality of Ann Arbor's sewage treatment was quite minimal. The association is made up of citizens in an Ann Arbor subdivision called Lansdowne who were desperately trying to find a way to block an apartment complex about to be built in their neighborhood. They hired a lawyer, who decided that the city's sewage treatment problems could be legal grounds for blocking any major new construction, in that such construction would increase the amount of sewage introduced into an





The pipe through which raw sewage flows into the Huron River when Ann Arbor's sewage treatment plant gets overloaded: it happened almost a dozen times last year alone.

already over-taxed treatment plant.

Lansdowne is a subdivision of about 400 homes in the southwest end of Ann Arbor. Most of its homes now sell for \$60,000 to \$80,000. Lansdowne is possibly the most minutely maintained section of Ann Arbor, each closely-cropped bright-green lawn looking almost identical to the next. Lansdowne is perhaps also the most conservative area in Ann Arbor. In the last mayoral election, 77% of its voters voted for Belcher, the highest Republican percentage in the city.

George Airey developed Lansdowne beginning in the early 1960's. He had been building homes in Ann Arbor since 1952, and by the time he began acquiring land in the Lansdowne area for another subdivision, he had earned the reputation for building exceptionally functional, well-constructed homes.

The way Airey developed a subdivision was to buy a piece of land and have it platted into lots. He would then sell separate lots along with a home he would build to the buyer's specifications within the range of models he was offering. No one other than Airey was permitted to build on these lots to keep quality and design control over the neighborhood. As Airey developed one section of Lansdowne, he would be negotiating for the purchase of adjacent land,

until by the middle of the 1960's, he owned most of the land in the triangle formed by Scio-Church and Saline Roads and I-94.

After having built a number of single family residences in Lansdowne, Airey prepared to build an apartment complex toward the very southern tip of the triangle. Lansdowne residents weren't very happy with this idea and got him to limit the number of units to 400, half of which would be condominiums.

Airey spent \$75,000 and a year's worth of time preparing to build a multi-unit complex, when in 1970 a roadblock suddenly appeared. "I was going to get the building permit for the complex within about ten days," he told us. "I was all set to build. By that point I figured the building permit was just a formality."

"But this was back in the time when the city felt that they wanted low-cost housing to give the colored people an opportunity to live in that area. And Mayor Harris asked me if we had any blacks in the area, and I mentioned the price of the homes to explain why there weren't. So Harris says, 'Well, I can't approve these plans until you get at least ten percent low-income apartments.' And I told him I didn't think that's feasible—mixing the low income with the richer type housing I was wanting to build."

"So Harris said, 'George, you take care of the drawings and I'll take care of the people.' I told him I couldn't do it. I went to the Chamber of Commerce and got everybody else I could to talk to Harris, but we couldn't get it resolved."

"So an opportunity came up to sell the land to Hessee, who wanted to build lower cost housing on it, and I thought, 'Well, this seems what the city wants: lower cost housing.' So I sold the land to Hessee."

Hessee Realty is a Southfield firm. Airey offered the firm his building plans, but they had their own design in mind, involving a denser development (588 instead of 400 units) which would be considerably less expensive than what Airey was planning to build.

Lansdowne residents were apparently not aware that Airey had sold the now controversial southern part of Lansdowne to Hessee Realty. It was a year later, just before Hessee was to receive its building permit, that they learned Hessee was going to build the 588 units. Lansdowne residents were especially angered because the city had not warned them of this impending development. Two weeks before the building permit was to be issued, they flocked to city hall and demanded that the city council deny Hessee permission to build their apartments.

Council acquiesced to the residents' demands and voted not to approve the site plan, but by that point there were no legal grounds for doing so, because Hessee had met all the city code and zoning requirements. So Hessee took the city to court, and after a long series of appeals by the city, the firm finally got the courts to order the city to give Hessee permission to build.

## Lansdowne Unites

**S**IMULTANEOUS with this court battle between Hessee and the city, there was mounting opposition among Lansdowne residents to the Hessee project. They formed a neighborhood association, which they named the Lawton Area Homeowners Association, and hired a lawyer, Lansdowne resident William Barese (pronounced *Barns*). In 1973, Barese filed a multi-count class-action suit against Airey, Hessee, and the city. In 1976, when Hessee was finally issued its building permit, Barese brought the suit to trial.

In that lawsuit, the Lansdowne residents made some charges that were wide of the mark. For instance, they said that the city's water supply was contaminated and that any further building would

exacerbate the situation. But two of their charges were ultimately ruled on favorably by Judge Fink.

One of the successful charges was that Airey, when he sold the first group of homes in Lansdowne, promised that the entire area within the triangle would be developed as single family homes. If this were the case, it would be a legally-binding promise, because an assurance of low-density development to potential home-buyers would enhance the selling price of Airey's homes.

Airey has vehemently denied that he made any such promise. He told us, "In our whole history, we always laid everything out on top of the table as flat as we could. When we built those first homes in Lansdowne, we didn't even own the land where we later planned to build apartments and condominiums. Nor was that land within two blocks of those first homes."

"There had been a map in our newspaper ads showing the land we owned—including some land across Saline Road. And we included it all under the name 'Lansdowne'—even a section we were thinking of building a shopping center on. And they [the Lansdowne residents] are now claiming that the map in the advertising, just because it had 'Lansdowne' written all across it, was all to be single family homes. But it didn't say that at all. Lansdowne can have single family homes, apartments, a shopping center. We didn't say this is going to be single family homes and nothing else, or we would have been out of our minds."

One person who testified that Airey had promised that Lansdowne would be all single family homes was Susan Adamson. She and her husband purchased a Lansdowne home in 1964 for \$42,958. We asked her what caused her to believe that the entire area, not just

## Ann Arbor Observer

Don Hunt and  
Mary Hunt, Editors

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her immediate area, was to be developed as single family residences. "I do believe that Mr. Airey is an ethical, honest businessman," she told us. "It's an honest disagreement, I believe. But we were purchasing a home in Lansdowne that backed up on a large open area, and we were concerned as to its ownership, its future usage, and as to its zoning. So we discussed the entire area with him. We talked about the large triangle—the I-94, Scio-Church and Saline Roads triangle. This was the area under portrayal. And it was presented to us that he owned the entire area, and that it was going to be developed as single family."

Judge Fink has ruled with the Lansdowne residents that Airey had made such a promise. But this ruling is under appeal by Hesse, and one lawyer we talked to who is familiar with the case thinks Fink's decision will be overturned because of the lack of hard evidence that Airey had made such a promise. If, however, Fink's ruling is upheld, the Lansdowne residents' long, bitter fight to keep the entire area single family homes will be over, and they will have won.

## False Charges

It is the second charge in the Lansdowne residents' lawsuit—the pollution charge—that has created the most bitterness and controversy around town. This is not merely because of the Lansdowne residents' expedient use of a powerful environmental protection law for their own interests, but because of the manner in which their lawyer, Barene, portrayed the city's efforts to improve its sewage treatment.

It is hardly a difficult task to prove that the city is not meeting its effluent quality standards. Any literate person could spend an afternoon looking through the city's sewage treatment records and build an air-tight case. But Barene went far beyond this. In his brief to the appellate court after Fink's decision, Barene portrayed the city as paying only lip service to its sewage treatment problems, of only pretending to solve those problems, and of trying to

cover up when they were brought to court.

These are serious charges, so we have tried to check them carefully. After contacting over a dozen people and checking through the city's sewage treatment plant records, it appears that Barene's argument contains serious factual errors, all of which make the city appear in a worse light than is the case. Here are Barene's errors:

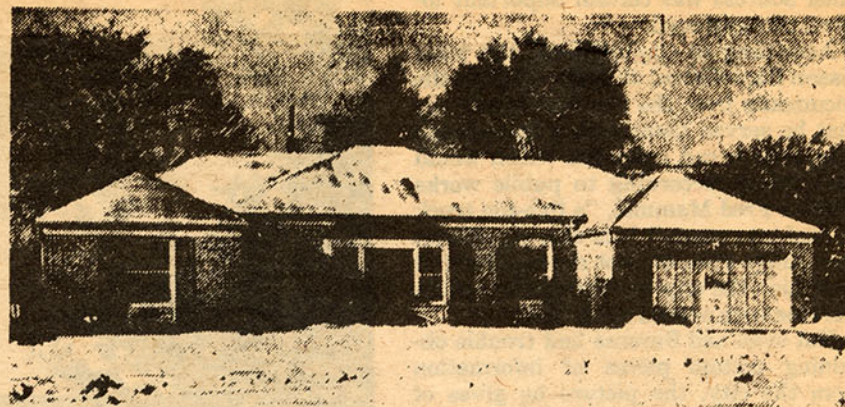
—Barene argues that the city's site permit quota system, begun in 1974 as a way of restricting the amount of added sewage going into the system, was a hoax. He wrote in his brief: "The quota system of the City was mere lip service. It looked good on paper; however, it was directly related to the demand for building permits. If the demand rose, the quota rose, and it had absolutely no relationship to restricting flow." Barene concludes that this shows that the city has acted in "bad faith."

The simple fact is that the city's quota has never once been raised and is today lower than it was in 1974. While it may look like the quota system fluctuates sharply from one time to another, it only appears that way because the number of days in each quota period varied.

—One of the important measures of the quality of the effluent the city discharges into the Huron River is the amount of suspended solids in the effluent. In his brief, Barene flatly states that "suspended solids were from 79 to 153 times greater than allowed by the standard."

According to every piece of information we could gather, this is grossly inaccurate. Rather than 79 to 153 times higher than the standard, it would be more accurate to say the city is exceeding its permitted suspended solid level by 1.25 to 2.25 times. This is still not a good record, but it is nothing near Barene's portrayal of the situation.

—Barene also informed the appellate court that presumably critical data documenting the city's pollution practices was concealed from him by the city. He claimed that only through "leaks" and



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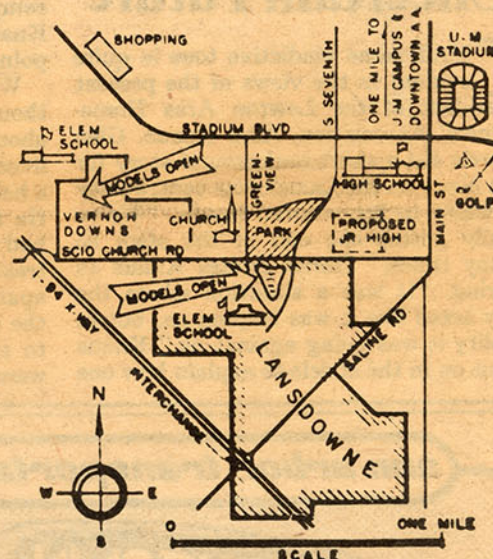


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A key piece of evidence in a controversial case: early Lansdowne homebuyers say this map in a 1964 newspaper ad for Lansdowne homes suggested developer George Airey was presenting Lansdowne as a single-family subdivision only. He says he had no such intention, that 'Lansdowne' had a much broader meaning.

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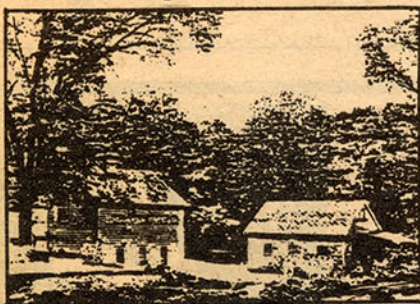
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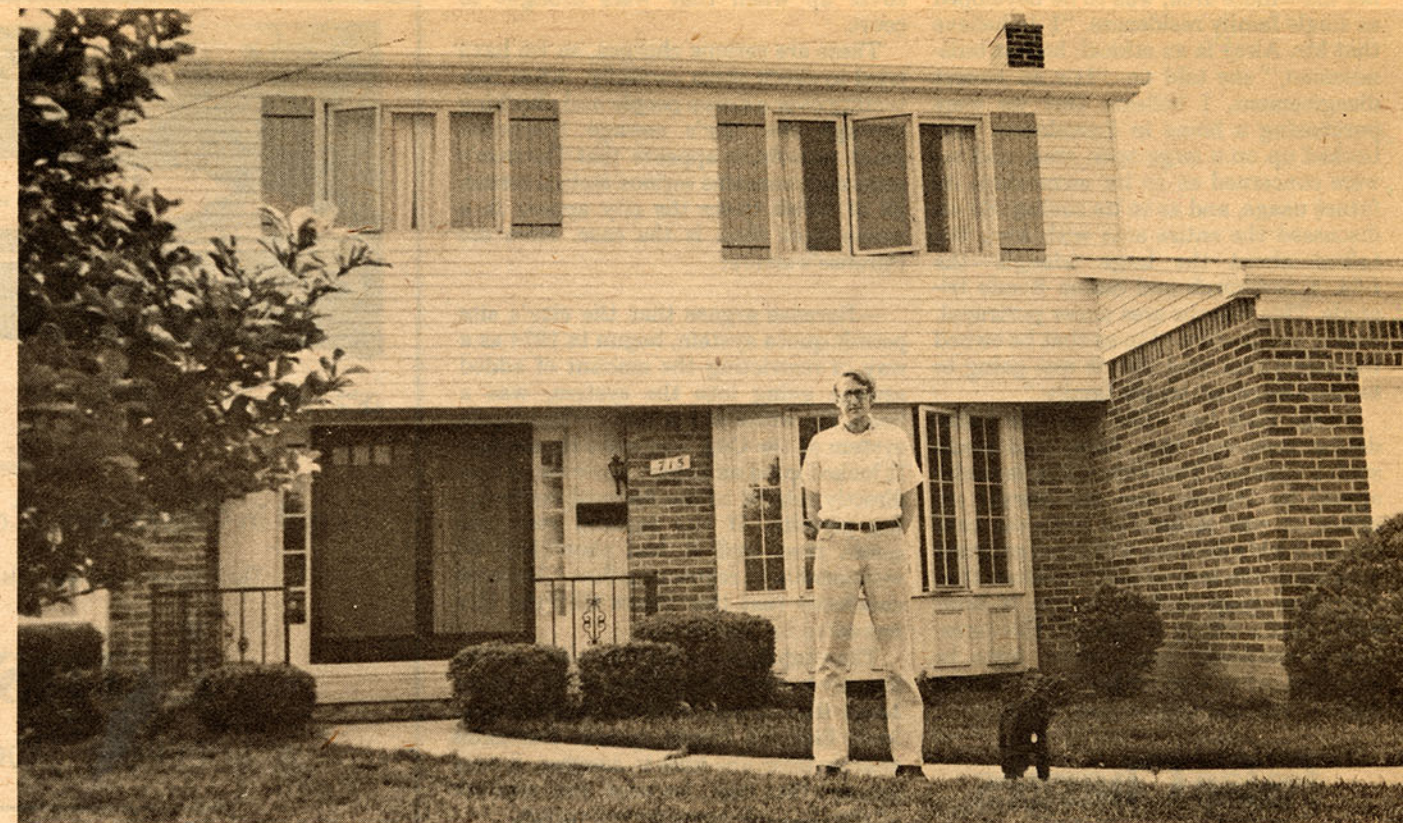
According to city officials, the main reason Barese had difficulty getting the documents from the city he wanted was that he served them with a last-minute extremely broad subpoena which would have taken, according to public works director Fred Mammal, "a five-ton truck to haul into court." It is also significant that Judge Fink did not during the trial admonish the city for failing to provide Barese with needed documents.

But even had Barese had trouble obtaining certain pieces of information from the city, the picture he gives of having to go to exceptional lengths to document the city's sewage problems is difficult to comprehend. No one else we have talked to who has looked into the city's sewage treatment problems reports any such difficulty, nor did we experience difficulty. And it seems especially odd that the city would try to hide such information from Barese, because duplicate copies of all relevant sewage treatment records are kept in Lansing and are fully open to the public.

William Colburn, a recent Fourth Ward councilman and now chairman of the state's Water Resources Commission, has read Barese's brief. He told us he found the errors in it "very disturbing." City administrator Sy Murray said the city officials who read the brief were "livid." City attorney Bruce Laidlaw called the brief "highly vindictive."

## Uncertain Future

THAT same vindictive tone is quite evident in the views of the present president of the Lawton Area Homeowners' Association, Alan Knaus. Glen Harris did a short background story for the *News* on the Lansdowne controversy in which he interviewed Knaus. "We've really gotten the end of the stick so many times," Harris quotes Knaus as saying. "It was a situation where the city acted like it was helping us, but in reality it was going against us." Knaus went on in the article to explain how one



Lansdowne neighborhood association president Alan Knaus: "I don't like the finger being pointed at me, personally, or a lot of the people living around here, as being 'affluent.'"

time after the other in the past decade the city has "botched" the affair.

Little of what Knaus said in the article jibed with our understanding of the long, complicated controversy. So we called Knaus to find out more about his viewpoint.

We were surprised to learn that although he has some very strong opinions about the controversy, Knaus has only lived in Lansdowne for the past year and a half. Before that he lived in Plymouth. He told us that the Lansdowne people had "no apologies" for using the sewage treatment issue to block the unwanted apartment complex, because for years the city has done "absolutely nothing" to solve its sewage problem. "If they were acting responsibly, about ten years

ago they should have started their plant expansion project, and it would have been built about six years ago, and there would have been no sewer suit," he maintained. We pointed out that ten years ago the city had, in fact, tried to expand its sewage treatment facilities, but had been blocked by the super-sewer controversy. Knaus admitted he hadn't known about that.

Knaus was even more critical of the city's legal staff and the way it handled its attempts to block the Hessee development in the courts. We suggested that perhaps the city lost the court battle against Hessee because Hessee had a stronger case, but in Knaus's opinion a better quality legal staff could have won the lawsuit. "You know, they don't pay

the city attorney a whole lot. I'm convinced that if you check back over the years, you'll find that the quality of the city attorney is not the epitome of the legal minds. In no case are you going to get a top legal mind in that job because he's going to make two, three, four, ten times as much outside city hall. Lawyers make that kind of dough. If you were a really good lawyer, are you going to work for the city for twenty grand and be dedicated, or are you going to go out and set up your own firm or work for a corporation and make tons of bucks?" [The city attorney's salary is \$28,700 and will go up to \$30,400 when next year's budget is approved.]

Knaus, a family man in his early thirties, works for Ford Motor Company

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in Dearborn as a computer programmer, and he went out of his way to explain to us that he is not rich.

"The Ann Arbor News has a way of always saying the affluent Lansdowne subdivision. I guess, depending on how you want to define the word 'affluent,' there's some truth to that. But I know several families around here (including my own) that are by no means or manner what I would consider affluent.

"Myself, I'm not a manager or a supervisor at Ford Motor Company. I make a little over twenty grand a year, and I've been there like about ten years. My wife and I have saved diligently for about the past eight years to buy this kind of place. Sure, it cost \$63,000. But homes are our thing. To us, a fine home is more important than driving big cars, wearing fancy clothes, going on big vacations. So we forego all those things deliberately because we saw this area when we were students at Michigan, we liked it, and that's why we're here.

"And I think there's more people like that living in Lansdowne than you might realize. There are definitely some people out here making bucks. But if you look around the city you'll find there are a bundle of subdivisions where people are making bucks. So I don't like the finger being pointed at me, personally, or a lot of the people living around here, as being 'affluent'—like we're making forty or fifty grand a year. I don't think you're going to find as many as you might think. And so what if people like us want to put their money into homes instead of buying expensive cars?"

After considerable sacrifice to buy a fine home in what he sees as the ideal location, Knaus sees the proposed Hessee apartment complex as a development which could shatter the tranquil environment he has finally found for himself and his family. "Currently, there are approximately 400 homes in Lansdowne. The Hessee development would be putting in 588 more units. The most detrimental impact on the homes this will have is, number one, a devaluation of property values. But that isn't the primary issue, at least for me. South Seventh is going to go through and become a thoroughfare. And Seventh goes right by Lawton Elementary School. Seventh would be the primary access road, and the traffic on that road with that Hessee development would increase dramatically.

"The second thing is that the crime rate in this area would decidedly increase if Hessee builds those apartments. We have lived in Plymouth, and when we

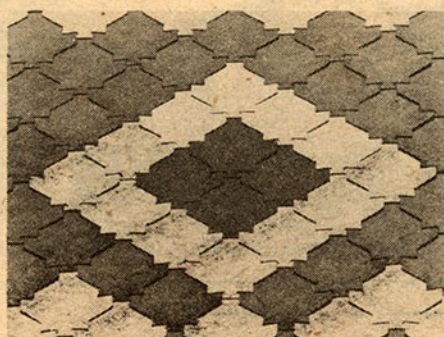
bought a house there, we did not have any apartments near us. But eventually apartments were built nearby and the crime rate went up and the atmosphere and environment around the elementary school was typified by gangs of young kids who came from these apartments, because the people who lived in them did not seem to keep an eye on their children. It's just sort of the nature of the people who live in apartments—that you're going to get a higher crime rate when people like that move in. I'm speaking from personal experience here. And I don't want a thing like that in my neighborhood, if I can do anything about it."

Have the Lansdowne residents finally stopped the Hessee apartment complex? Hardly. Judge Fink's sewer hook-up ban is being appealed by the city, which is also urging the Water Resources Commission to relax the sewage treatment standards assigned to the city until its new plant is completed in 1980. Hessee Realty is also appealing Fink's decision.

So Alan Knaus's environment, which he paid \$63,000 to live in, has as tenuous a future as ever.

## Test Of the Town

By BOB BRECK

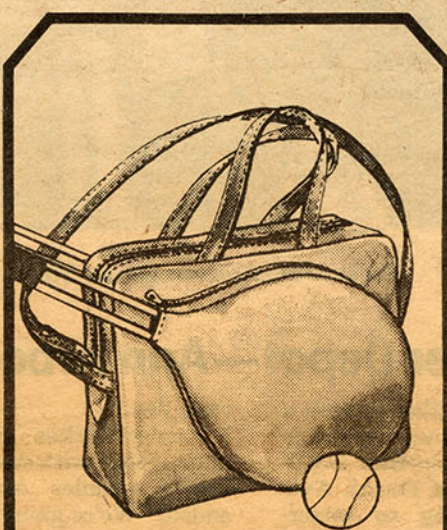


Do you merely look at the Ann Arbor scene, or do you really see the city's many interesting and beautiful buildings and places? *Test of the Town* might help to develop your ability to look closely at the sights of central Ann Arbor... and win a prize if you're quick enough with the right answer.

Where was this photo made? Let us know the specific location via postcard or letter to *Ann Arbor Observer*, 502 East Huron, Ann Arbor 48104. Senders of the first two correct answers received will get their pick of any one of the thousands of records available at the Liberty Music Shop, 417 East Liberty.

So start looking for the object in this issue's photo—which is not far from the U-M campus.

Paul Brown and Robin Lewis won albums of their choice from Liberty Music by correctly identifying last month's photograph. It was a gargoyle on the Palmer bell tower of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church at 306 N. Division. The tower was erected in 1903 (some 36 years after the church was built) with a contribution from Love M. Palmer in memory of her husband Alonzo Palmer, a professor in the College of Medicine for many years. The Palmers lived in the beautiful red brick house at Division and Ann.



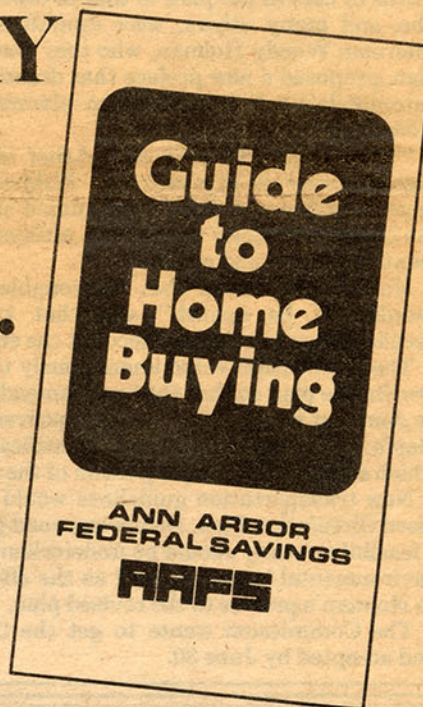
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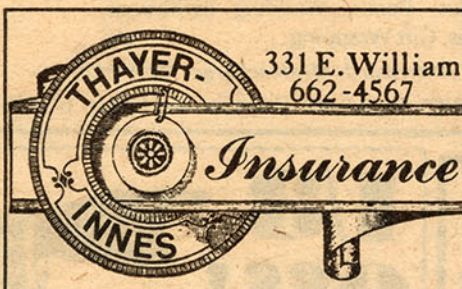


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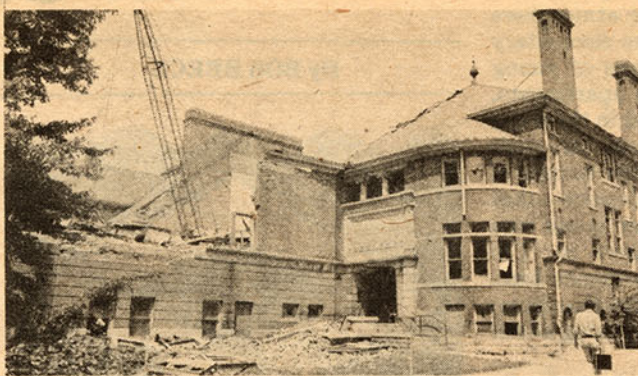
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# Ann Arbor Items



## Farewell to Barbour-Waterman

What's to say about the demolition of the Barbour-Waterman gyms? That historic buildings are a non-renewable resource, and that the U-M Regents, guided by the administration, refused to consider a feasibility study on adapting the gyms to some other use. That the demolition job will take a month. That most of us won't realize the important visual role the structures played until they're gone and we see the sides of two far less attractive buildings, sides that were never meant to be seen. Erection of the proposed new chemistry building on the site is still in the long-range planning stage. For quite awhile we'll have a gaping hole to remind us of the Regents' decision.

## People First, Cars Second

For many concerned citizens the surprise of the month was the Planning Commission's last-minute change of heart about the long-debated Circulation Plan. The planning department staff had recommended undertaking some major road projects to improve automobile circulation, including widening Hill Street, extending Fifth Avenue to Hoover, pairing Liberty and William as one-way streets, and widening Fuller and Geddes Roads to improve access to University Hospital.

Organized citizen groups and neighborhood associations were furious, claiming the plan sacrificed neighborhoods to automobiles. Many new faces appeared at public hearings to join the protest. But the planning commission accepted the first three drafts of the Circulation Plan, though some commissioners objected strongly.

The fourth and final draft was up for vote on May 10. Eppie Lewis, the plan's most outspoken critic on the commission, had brought four pages of amendments designed to reduce the status of cars in the plan to that of other transportation modes. She, and many others, were dumbfounded when commission chairman Woody Holman, who they thought had supported the plan, proposed a new preface that drastically de-emphasized the automobile's role in circulation planning and thereby accomplished all Lewis had intended.

"The quality of life in Ann Arbor is unique and worthy of preservation even at great cost," Holman's preface states. "It is more desirable to maintain the human and intimate character of the community than to seek the ultimate in the efficient movement of persons and goods."

Holman also stated that "reasonable use of private vehicles should not be denied," and that transportation planning decisions should take into account the energy shortage.

The commission voted unanimously to accept the preface and rewrite the plan so that the "recommended" road projects would be demoted to the status of alternatives. This would retain the plan's background data and identification of problem areas, which comprise the major portion of the report.

New transportation guidelines would be developed in the revised Circulation Plan. Before any road project could be started, a feasibility study should be undertaken to assess the social and environmental impact as well as the effect on traffic, according to Holman's preface to the revised plan.

The Commission wants to get the Circulation Plan revised and accepted by June 30.



The Beer Depot crew: Dennis Scott, Patty Scott, Joe Dailey, and Art Bonavia.

## The Beer Depot—Ann Arbor's Newest Market

Since April there's been a colorful old-timey vegetable stand outside the Beer Depot at William and Fourth Avenue. According to owner-manager Joe Dailey, it's just the beginning of an ambitious expansion. Soon, he says, the Beer Depot will combine "the best of Detroit's Eastern Market in one building." There will be meats and cheeses sliced to the customer's order, nuts can be had either raw or roasted on the spot. Fresh Bagel Factory bagels and Sun Bakery bread are already available, and a truckload of fresh vegetables arrives around three

each day.

Ann Arborites insist on natural food with few preservatives, Dailey said, and added, "We're going to keep the price down, too."

Does this dramatic shift in emphasis portend a change of name to, say, something like The Olde Worlde Market? Not at all. "The Beer Depot" is a landmark name," Dailey said. "We just spent \$2500 to rebuild the landmark sign, built in 1939." The sign consists of a curving red arrow (neon at night) pointing to the drive-through beer sales area. The Beer Depot will continue to sell beer and wine, of

course. Two renovated basement rooms with 1500 square feet will permit a greatly expanded wine selection.

Dailey bought the building four years ago and the business last year. The property includes the adjoining brick house at Fourth Ave. and William, erected in 1871 by Ottmar Eberbach of the Eberbach Pharmaceutical firm. An Ann Arbor Tomorrow low-interest facade loan is enabling Dailey to reconstruct the ornate porch that once graced the entrance and to restore the pressed-metal gable detail.

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## Quarry Photo in Every City?

Ann Arbor's Quarry Photo stores have recently been bought by the Fotomat Corporation of Stanford, California. Fotomat has been dotting America's urban areas with small kiosks from which "photomates" sell \$100 million dollars worth of film a year. This year another 650 of these kiosks are going up.

Fotomat bought Quarry Photo because its executives wanted to expand into the camera store business and wanted a well-run camera store as a model which they could duplicate across the country. Even the name "Quarry Photo" will probably be used for all such stores, Quarry's Brian Ainsworth told us.

The forty-one year-old Ainsworth was hired to direct Quarry's camera store operations five years ago. In that period he has increased sales from less than \$1 million to over \$2.5 million a year and expanded operations from two to five stores. His most successful new store, built three years ago in Saginaw, sells \$455 of merchandise per square foot of store space, an industry record.

Quarry Photo is a 26-year-old spin-off of Quarry Drugs, which began 79 years ago at the corner of State and North University,

where Kresge's is today. In 1939, R. C. Bliss bought Quarry Drugs. He sold the drugstore end of the business to Richardson's Pharmacy in 1971. Bliss and his son remain the chief executives of Quarry Corporation, which sells physician's, hospital, and microscientific equipment.

The key to the success of Quarry Photo, Ainsworth told us, is in staffing its stores with knowledgeable salespeople who can intelligently serve camera novices and sophisticates alike. He insists the local Quarry Photo stores on State Street and in Plymouth Mall, even though they have been bought by a large corporation, will continue to operate as they always have. Ainsworth should know, because as head of Fotomat's camera store division he will be responsible for orchestrating the enormous planned expansion in the number of Quarry Photo stores in the years ahead. He mentioned that Quarry Photo's State Street store could likely become the training center for managers and assistant managers for the new Quarry Photo stores. The downstairs store area can serve as a real-life training area, and the upstairs would be remodeled into classrooms.



## Changes Around Central Ann Arbor



Two old Ann Arbor businesses closed at the end of May. Fischer Pharmacy, 227 E. Liberty, ended 61 years of business at that location. Pharmacist Richard Beissel's recent heart attack influenced the decision to quit. He has been at Fisher's 48 years; his partner John Stenzel has worked there nearly 30 years. Fischer's collection of 60 antique gold-embossed bottles for tinctures, elixirs, and salts, will be sold sometime in June, as will the store's fixtures.

Next door at 225 E. Liberty, Goodhew's Floral Com-

pany, a three-generation family enterprise, started in 1886, also closed its doors and took down the beautiful gilded wrought-iron sign, made by Alfred Goodhew, who liked to relax from flower-arranging by hammering at his forge.

Both businesses were located in the Darling Building, recently purchased by Bonnie DeLoof and Estelle Schneider of Concept IV. They are about to combine the Darling Building and the yellow brick structure next door and gut the interior. Tenants had been told that renovations

would last until December.

The Collectors' House of Art, a tenant in the yellow building, has moved down the street to 209 E. Liberty, formerly occupied by Local Finance Corporation. After the move it will take the name of The House of Frames—that's the 35-store chain, headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, that purchased the store a year ago. Custom and ready-made framing will be emphasized, but the store will continue to carry limited edition prints. The manager, Charles Blackwell, plans to start mounting one-artist shows of well-known print-makers.

Friends and patrons of The Round Table restaurant, 114 W. Liberty, will miss Maurice Stack, co-owner for the past ten years, who died after a long illness on May 12 at the age of 74. Despite a painful problem with his legs, he used to be at the restaurant regularly at 6 each morning to help his partner and wife Evelyn in the kitchen. His cheerful early-morning calls to Yellow Cab awakened many a all-night driver snooz-

ing on a stand. They'll miss him, too.

The old Godfrey Moving warehouse at 410 North Fourth Avenue next to the Farmers' Market has been purchased by Art Carpenter (developer of the adjacent Kerrytown shopping complex), along with John Hancock, Marge McNeil (manager of Kitchenport), and the O'Neal Construction Company. They plan to integrate the newly-acquired building into Kerrytown. No plans are definite, but they're thinking about getting a major retailer for the second floor, shops for the first, and a restaurant/bar for the basement, with third-floor storage and a residential unit. The present tenants (5 separate antique dealers and Traver Creek Pottery) will stay until the end of August.

After Marvin Esch's office at Huron and Fourth Avenue closed, the Embassy Hotel (which is located upstairs and owns the building) took advantage of the opportunity to expand and ease its chronic

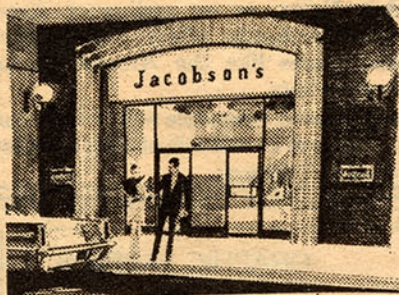
overbooking problem. The \$20,000 ground floor renovation will gain four guest rooms (for a total of 21), a new office, and a larger apartment for the hotel's manager, Gobind Singh. Singh and his wife came here from the Punjab in northern India a few years ago to manage the hotel, which is owned in part by relatives. The Singhs have built up the business; clientele for the \$10 and \$12 rooms consists largely of semi-permanent residents and foreign visitors. The couple also run Sangam, the Indian food and gift shop around the corner at 107 South Fourth Avenue.

On Detroit at Kingsley a row of trees and shrubs now softens the parking lot in front of the Old Brick Quality Refinishing shop. An Ann Arbor Tomorrow low-interest facade loan enabled owner Dave Safer to do the work, which was planned by landscape architect John Hollowell. The building, a former gas station, will soon receive a long canvas awning and a coat of brown paint.

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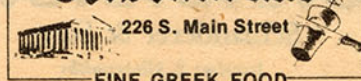
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## At the Farmers' Market

Salad vegetables are in—lettuces, radishes, onions, and spinach. June brings the first of the broccoli, cabbages, beets, turnips, and cooking greens (mustard and turnip). Peas come in late in June.

In the first part of the month bedding plants, flowers, and late spring asparagus will continue to appear.

As usual, there's an assortment of baked goods, crafts, houseplants and nursery stock, and free puppies and kittens.

## A Gym for the City Center Building



Asian Martial Arts Studio, the karate school formerly located on E. Washington, has moved into the basement of the City Center Building. That move may provide an invigorating amenity to the people who now work in the large office building. Building manager Peter Allen came up

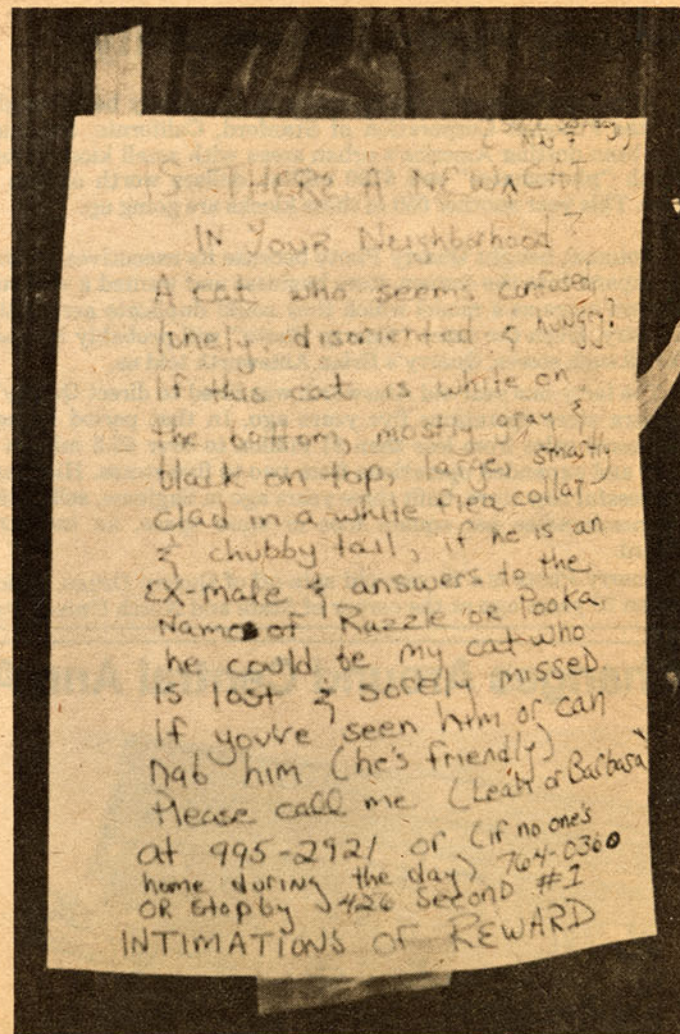
with the idea of a gym, exercise room, saunas, and showers, which could be shared by the karate school's students as well as the building's tenants. "We sent out a questionnaire, and 75% of the people indicated that they would use the facilities and pay for it." The cost, he estimates would be \$100-\$150 a year for each person.

The project would cost from \$25,000 to \$35,000 to complete. Saunas alone cost \$2000 each. It might have cost much more, Allen explained: "You see, what happened was that they had a restaurant in the building years ago and we have two 110-gallon hot water heaters right

now that do nothing but heat the water for one barbershop sink. So all that expensive material is in place ready to go."

The showers alone should be a welcome addition. Allen mentioned how the tenants can make use of them: "They can run to work, do their exercises, then take a shower. Or during the day they can take a bike ride and go back to work. Or jog down the street, or take Karate lessons."

Allen added that if there is room for more use of the facilities, they will make it available to members of the Fire Department across the street as well as employees in nearby businesses.



## Pookah Lives

Spring inspires a restless wanderlust in cats as well as people. This notice was recently tacked on a tree in front of the Wash-tenaw Dairy at Ashley and Madison. After an absence of ten days, Pookah was found. He had returned to his former haunts, from which his worried owners had moved a year and a half ago.

## Ban Pornography?

Adult book stores have been in Ann Arbor for years, (the Fourth Avenue Adult News arrived in 1973) but recent developments have called local attention for the first time to the pornography issue. Prostitutes started gathering around the Fourth Avenue massage parlors and the Capitol Market, soliciting and bothering passersby, until numerous arrests were made last month. And a new massage parlor, the Tokyo Health Spa, opened in March at 404 W. Liberty, immediately adjacent to the Old West Side residential area. Two months later a woman was arrested there as part of a statewide raid on a chain of massage parlors.

Citizen complaints mounted, and Third Ward Republican Councilman Roger Bertioia introduced an anti-pornography ordinance modeled after Ypsilanti's ordinance, which has withstood court tests in two lower courts.

"If you present a soft underbelly to the world, you'll get it stuck to you." That's what Bertioia believes, and he sees the adult book stores and massage parlors as the soft underbelly of Ann Arbor, the beginning of a spreading malady which has a domino effect. His ordinance would prohibit the display and sale of materials appealing solely to prurient interests, as judged according to prevailing community standards.

Democrats have voiced concerns about First Amendment freedom of speech rights and about police priorities and the ordinance's enforceability. Fourth Ward Democrat Jamie Kenworthy speculates that pornography may be in the mind of the beholder, which would make it very difficult to control indeed.

Republican council leader Lou Belcher says he and fellow Republicans Jerry Bell and Ron Trowbridge have real problems with Bertioia's proposed ordinance. They, like the Democrats, feel it's too broad and general. "My main objective is to get them (erotic magazine covers) out of the window," Belcher has said. "I don't care what an 18-year-old consenting adult does as long as it's not pushed on the street." With eight council critics from both parties, the ordinance is unlikely to pass as written. A revised ordinance of some sort seems likely.

Those All-American favorites *Playboy* and *Penthouse* are among the more suggestive covers displayed in the window of the Fourth Avenue Adult News, so an ordinance directed against that display would probably affect the display of magazines in other public places like the Arcade magazine stand, drugstores and supermarkets.

A public hearing on the proposed ordinance will be held June 6 in the Council Chambers. Copies are available at the City Clerk's office, second floor, City Hall at 7:30 p.m.



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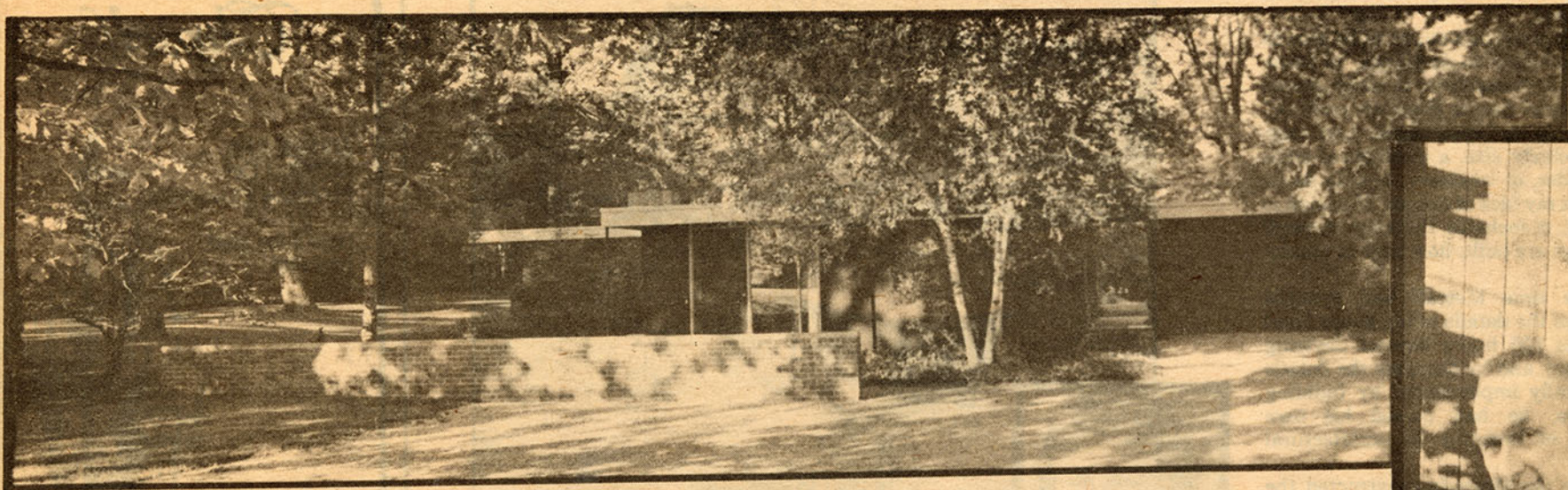


June 1977

11

*Elegant, precise, and 90% homemade—*

*Bob and Bettie Metcalf's house  
inaugurated a noted architectural career.*



# The Owner-Built House

*You may think it's been generations since anyone in Ann Arbor actually built their own home. But that's not so.*

*There are people in Ann Arbor (not many of them, to be sure) who have built their houses mostly with their own hands. And there are many other do-it-yourselfers who are tackling old house renovations so extensive that they are reconstructing entire systems, from plumbing and wiring to walls.*

*We talked to two very different people who designed and built their own houses. Bob Metcalf, now Dean of the U-M School of Architecture and Urban Planning, has the reputation of being the most distinguished designer of contemporary homes in Ann Arbor. He launched his architectural career in 1953 with the elegant, functional house he and his wife Bettie built themselves. Al Roebuck, a young instructor of public speaking at Eastern Michigan, had little previous building and design experience, but he's now finishing off a handsome, rustic house that has cost him about \$6,000 in materials and labor.*

THE feat of designing and building their own house had a dual purpose for Bob and Bettie Metcalf. It was a very cheap way to live in a fine house, and it was a way to show Ann Arborites what they could expect if they commissioned a house designed by Metcalf.

They started building the house in 1952. Metcalf, two years out of architecture school, was working for George Brigham, one of the first contemporary architects to practice in Ann Arbor. Postwar Ann Arbor in the early 1950's was filled with married students attending college on the GI Bill, and the housing shortage was much worse than today. The Metcalfs were tired of moving from one one-room apartment to another. They wanted a house but had very little money.

At that time Metcalf was also ready to start practicing architecture on his own. For several reasons Ann Arbor seemed to offer a good chance for success as a designer of contemporary houses: Brigham had paved the way with his functional homes; the more liberal-minded members of the University faculty seemed a likely source of clients; and financing for then-daring "modern"

houses was available from Ann Arbor Federal Savings, which was, according to Metcalf, "more forward-looking and willing to loan money on what many people considered chicken coops."

As fledgling contemporary architect back then, Metcalf says "we assumed that it would be very difficult to get a job. We decided if we designed our own house, we could show what we could do. We would build a house, possibly sell it, and recover our own labor."

The cost of the lot itself was a big investment for the young couple. Lots on the west side of town generally cost much less than on the east side, but they still cost too much. So Bettie Metcalf kept looking until she found a real bargain in an attractive location: a half-acre lot for \$1100 on Arlington near Devonshire, then an undeveloped area outside city limits. Today the lot (and the adjoining half-acre they purchased in 1953) are valued at nearly \$50,000.

Once the site was selected, Metcalf set himself down to devising the scheme of the house—a 300-hour process, it turned out. "Building that house was a very serious business for me," he explains. "That's why I took so much time. I

figured it would be a statement of my philosophy. If I was going into business, it had to say what I meant about things."

What principles did he design the house to reflect, we asked Metcalf. First, he told us, "people need nature." The occupants should feel part of nature, he explained, and from the outside the house should be unobtrusive and melt into the background. Large areas of glass in his Arlington house open onto the rolling, extensively landscaped side yard.

Second, Metcalf believes, "a sense of space is the most important thing you buy in a house. We get claustrophobia in most people's houses, because you can't see out. Everything's so small and pinched in, so inward-looking." Though the Metcalf's house was small (1080 square feet), an open floor plan where spaces flowed into each other rather than being divided into small rooms created a sense of space that made it seem big.

Building the house himself gave Metcalf another chance to prove himself as an architect. "I saw the problems that architects had convincing the workmen on a job that something unusual could be

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done. They would call the architect's drawings the 'funny pictures.' I had a very strong will that I would show them how it could be done. If they would say, 'You can't do that,' I wanted to be able to say, 'I'll show you how.' In twenty years of practice I only had to do that once or twice.

"I think architects *ought* to be able to show people how to do things, to know how to do it themselves. It really grates me that some people think an architect designs only for appearance, and then asks somebody else, a mechanical engineer, builder, or whatever, how to do it. That's not my idea of design. If design is any good, it includes thinking through how things are built, how they are maintained."

By the time Metcalf had thought through all the details of his house (that alone took 500 hours beyond devising the scheme), and by the time the details were actually implemented by building the house, he had passed his own stiff test of integrity in architectural design.

Because the Metcalfs constructed the house themselves, an important part of the design process was selecting materials and techniques that they could handle. For instance, the interior finish is western red cedar panelling (boards, not sheets of plywood) because, Metcalf says, "we couldn't do plaster, but anybody can nail a board."

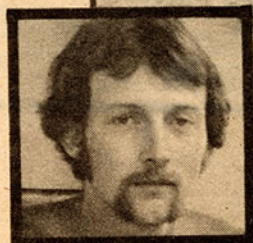
The brick floor would have been exorbitantly expensive if a bricklayer had done the work. But the cost was in the labor; bricks themselves were cheap back then. The Metcalfs laid brick floor "because it was probably the cheapest floor we could possibly do." It cost 51 cents a square foot, including the concrete and gravel underneath.

By supplying the labor themselves, the Metcalfs were able to build a \$30,000 house (in 1952 dollars) for \$14,000. They got luxuries like radiant heating for the cost of forced air. Radiant heating, with hot water coils buried in the cement floor, eliminated the need for ductwork in the ceiling which would have spoiled the clear expression of the building's structure, especially the way the thin plane of the ceiling seems to float where it joins the high window walls.

For the thirteen months it took to build their house (from April 1952 to May 1953), Bob and Bettie Metcalf followed a schedule that seldom varied. They went to work at 6 AM (she as a nurse, he as a draftsman for Brigham), came home by 2:30 to change clothes and be at the building site by 3:00, where they stayed until ten. Dinners were picnics no matter what the season, and weekends meant eighteen-hour days, so that altogether they put in well over sixty hours a week apiece on the house.

About the time they were preparing to move in, funds for living expenses were running short, when Professor Crane of the chemistry department walked in one day and asked Metcalf to design him a new house. Even before it was finished, their house impressed him very favorably. The strategy of using their house as a demonstration model had worked. Four more commissions quickly followed within the year, and Metcalf's career was off to a good start.

Looking back at the house-building experience, Bettie Metcalf says with conviction, "It was fun. Sometimes things seemed to be going awfully slow, but it was never depressing." They both feel the experience was totally rewarding. "The greatest thing we ever did was to build our own house," Bob Metcalf says. "We often talk about that. A lot of people are looking for something to do in life. Building your house is one of the most important things you can do. It means work, but it sure beats watching television or playing tennis."



*Alan Roebuck proved  
you don't need to be experienced  
to build a good house.*

WHEREAS Metcalf had had professional training in architecture and longtime practical familiarity with construction techniques, Roebuck was an advanced beginner. He had helped finish off a house addition, and then he had designed and successfully built a custom redwood greenhouse. "I figured if I could build a greenhouse, I could build a house," he says. For the past two years Roebuck has been working on his house, now nearly finished, at 525 Carolina, south of Jackson Avenue near Stadium.

Roebuck's first step was self-education. He learned a lot from books, ranging from J. Douglas Wilson's *Practical Carpentry* (a somewhat dated basic standby by an old-time builder) to Frank Lloyd Wright's classic, *The Natural House*. Though *The Owner-Built House* by Ken Kern was weak on practical details, it was good on design theory. Kern emphasizes using available materials and open floor plans, and he discusses non-conventional construction methods.

Initially Roebuck devised a design for a rural site, but then he realized he couldn't afford country acreage. He did find a quarter-acre site for \$3000 in a subdivision of look-alike National prefab homes. So he came up with a new design to take maximum advantage of the lot, which faces southwest because of a curve in the street. The southwestern orientation enabled Roebuck to come up with a highly energy-efficient design. High front windows gain enough heat in the winter, when the sun sets in the southwest, to heat the house on a sunny day with the help of two wood-burning stoves. (For cloudy and extremely cold days there's a back-up gas furnace normally set at 55°.) In the summer, when glass to the west creates an overheating problem, a cantilevered overhang blocks out the high sun, and by the time the sun is low on the horizon, it has moved around to the northwest where it hits the windowless side wall of the house.

When Roebuck filed his building permit and submitted cost estimates of

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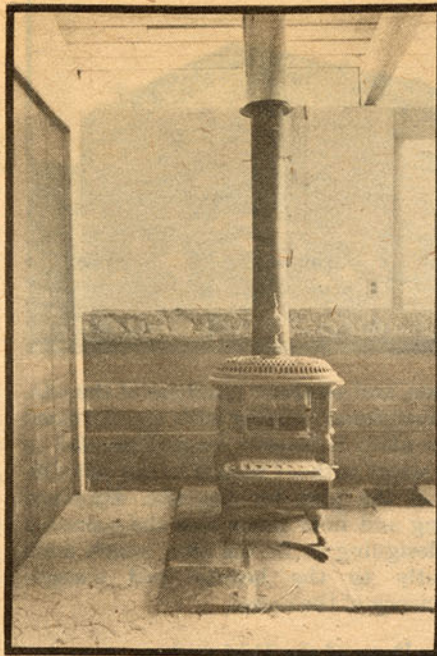


\$5000, most of the city's building inspectors were incredulous. Conventional construction methods using all new materials would have cost much more. Roebuck saved money not only on labor, but on materials, too. His 3/4 ton pickup truck was an invaluable tool. On trips between Ann Arbor and Plymouth, where his parents live, he discovered silo tiles from ruined silos (which became his bathroom times), old doors, barn beams (found too late to be used inside structurally, but fine for retaining walls by the driveway), and rocks for landscaping purposes. To get salvage materials, he became adept at on-the-spot negotiations with farmers and contractors. If he builds again, Roebuck thinks that he'll start out by erecting a garage or barn for storing materials, and then devise a design based on what he collects.

Along the sides of the house, earth berms insulate the lower third of the exterior walls and make the inside cooler in summer, warmer in winter. The berms also permit the footings to be placed directly under the floor slab so no trench or foundation wall is needed. (To prevent walls from heaving in winter due to uneven stresses of freezing soil, the walls must be built on footings 42 inches below grade in Michigan.) Roebuck's earth berm extends 42 inches up the exterior wall and protects the ground underneath it from freezing. The berms also save the cost of sheathing and finishing that 42 inches of wall height. They were formed with excavation dirt that otherwise would have had to be hauled away.

**I**N September, 1975 a backhoe leveled the site for construction. Everything else Roebuck has done himself or with a helper, and today the house is essentially complete.

Part of his secret for success seems to be in his flexible, loose attitude toward his demanding project. As sources of



**Energy efficiency and charm: the wood stoves, together with solar heat gain, cut heating costs way down. Roebuck gets permits to cut down dead trees on state land. With a chain saw and a pickup truck, he has already laid in next winter's fuel. A gas furnace is a backup source of heat.**

some materials fell through and others were found, the construction details changed. "Building a house is a series of problems," Roebuck advises other beginners. "You have to accept that you'll have problems and difficulties. What you have to do is break your big problems down into little problems that you can solve."

It's extremely important to recognize your limitations and not get ahead of yourself, he has learned. For example, when he had hired the backhoe to level

the site, a false economy caused him to have it dig the water line to the street. He laid the water pipe but didn't get to the point of connecting it until the following spring. By that time, the trench had filled in with muddy clay that completely buried the end of the pipe, which he then had to dig out laboriously by hand. Now he realizes his mistake in not leaving the water line until last, even if it meant another trip by the backhoe at \$25 an hour.

Many do-it-yourself builders try to expedite construction by fudging on building code requirements. They often become a little paranoid as a result and regard building inspectors as the Enemy stifling the freedom of the Individual. Roebuck views them differently. He's a beginner, he realizes, and he wants a well-built house. All the inspectors in Ann Arbor's Building and Safety Department are former professional craftsmen in the construction field. "To get a professional to come over, look at the work you've done, and make suggestions—it's a bargain," Roebuck maintains, "and I've enjoyed it."

The plumbing inspector, for instance, took three trips to critique and improve his plumbing layout and installation. Building inspectors in general have been helpful and interested rather than disgusted by Roebuck's unusual way of making his house. Neighbors like the house, too; it's something of a landmark in an otherwise homogeneous area. (Chances are that a more affluent subdivision would not have been so tolerant.)

Roebuck is proud that his hand-made house complies with code, and he credits the Building and Safety Department with much of his success. "Some people look at building inspectors as cops," he says. "I look to them as teachers."



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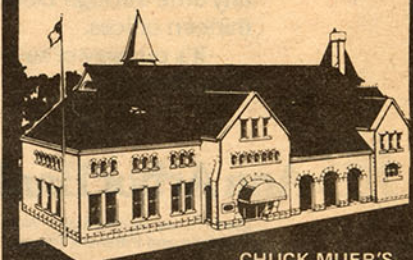
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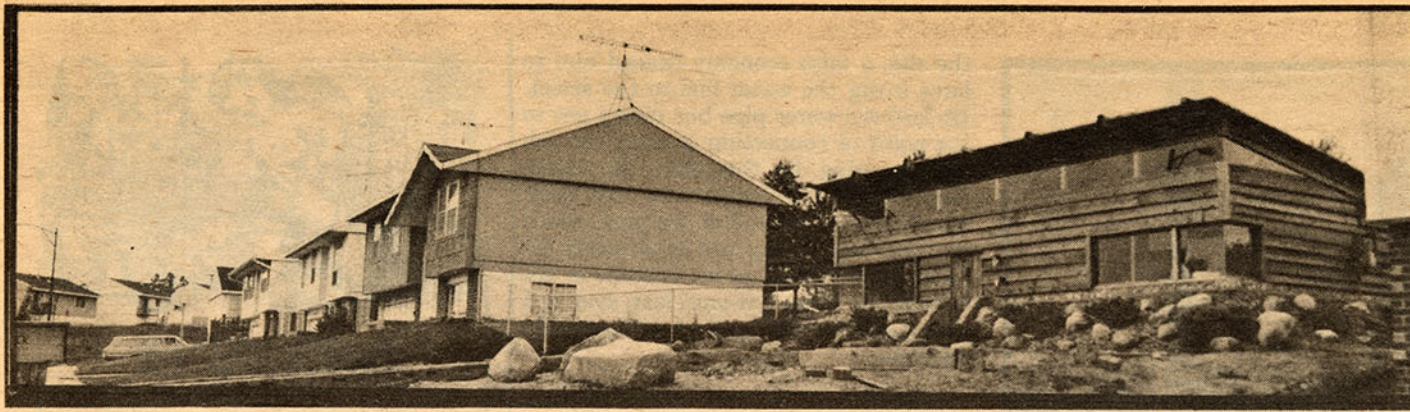
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Marching to a different drummer: when environmental factors and found materials are incorporated into a house's design and construction, the result is vastly different from standardized dwellings. The contrast between Alan Roebuck's handmade house and its prefabricated neighbors on Carolina is a case in point.

**M**ETCALF and Roebuck approached building their own houses with very different backgrounds and objectives. Metcalf was a perfectionist, in his words "fussy and particular to the n-th degree." He's the kind of architect who can tell if a line is 1/8" out of plumb. Part of the design problem he faced was how to achieve the precision of detail he wanted while working within the limits of his and his wife's construction expertise.

Roebuck, on the other hand, had a wide tolerance for roughness of detail. He had to figure out how to incorporate the inevitable irregularities of his construction methods into the finished texture of the house. For example, his

poured concrete inside wall bowed obviously inward, so the row of bricks he had planned to top it with would have been too neat and regular to look well with the uneven wall. He substituted irregularly-laid stones for the bricks; they complemented the wall's irregularities.

Despite the differences in their backgrounds and styles, Metcalf's and Roebuck's houses are similar in very significant ways. They are small (around 1000 square feet), with no wasted space for hallways, and have high ceilings, large window areas, and open, flowing floor plans to enhance the sense of spaciousness. Both designs began with consideration of the solar orientation, prevailing

winds, and aesthetic qualities of the site. Conventional housing with standardized floor plans is usually located parallel to the street without regard to the suitability of the plan for the site. Standard siting and floor plans lose the economy of designing to fit the site, which adds greatly to the beauty and energy-efficiency of the house.

As Dean of the U-M College of Architecture and Urban Design, Metcalf encourages his students to understand the principles of design more fully by designing and building houses themselves. He considers today an excellent time for prospective homeowners to

undertake building their houses. With new construction soaring in cost, the owner who builds a house gets much more for his or her dollar.

The energy shortage gives added impetus to new custom-designed construction. "It forces you to rethink all building," says Metcalf. "But if someone's going to build a house, they need more than a \$25 set of plans and a paperback from the bookstore. They need help." He suggests professional help—a younger architect willing to provide a design, working drawings, and construction advice, or a builder who will help people with their own work.

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# LEISURE NOTES

## Helpful County Maps

Two helpful county and park maps are yours for the asking. There's a "Recreation Guide to Washtenaw County," a large map which lists and locates places for picnicking, boating, fishing, camping, hunting, swimming, and nature study. Also on the map are playgrounds, tennis courts, ball diamonds, private clubs, riding trails, golf courses, and air fields. It's very complete but takes awhile to decipher. Fees and permits are noted, and there are phone numbers for getting additional information. To get the map, stop by or write Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, 2355 W. Stadium, Ann Arbor 48107. Enclose 25 cents for mailing.

A comprehensive county street map collection is available free from Spear & Associates, Realtors. The fold-out sheet includes an indexed Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti map, a U-M campus guide, street maps for Chelsea, Dexter, Manchester, Milan, and Saline, plus a small Washtenaw County road map. This worthwhile addition to your glove compartment or cycling pack can be had by writing Spear & Associates, 1935 Pauline Plaza, Ann Arbor 48103, or calling 994-4500.

## Summer Classes in Arts and Sports



The Ann Arbor Recreation Department offers a wide variety of summer classes for children and adults. The summer catalog is available from the department office at Lawton School, 2250 S. Seventh, 48103 (phone 994-2326). It lists classes for all ages in chess, fencing, gymnastics, martial arts and scuba diving as well as in standard summer sports like swimming and tennis. There are five different baseball and softball leagues alone, plus tennis and golf tournaments and special programs for runners and for senior citizens.



Supervised playgrounds for children at many schools and parks offer arts and crafts, games, storytelling, etc.

The Cultural Arts programs include a potpourri of art courses for adults and children in painting, drawing, ceramics, printmaking, clay sculpture, and textiles, with sketching classes in museums and the U-M Botanical Gardens. Then there are dance classes (modern dance, ballet, tap, and jazz), drama workshops for children (including mime and puppeteering), band and orchestra classes



for children and the Civic Band and Civic Symphony for adults.

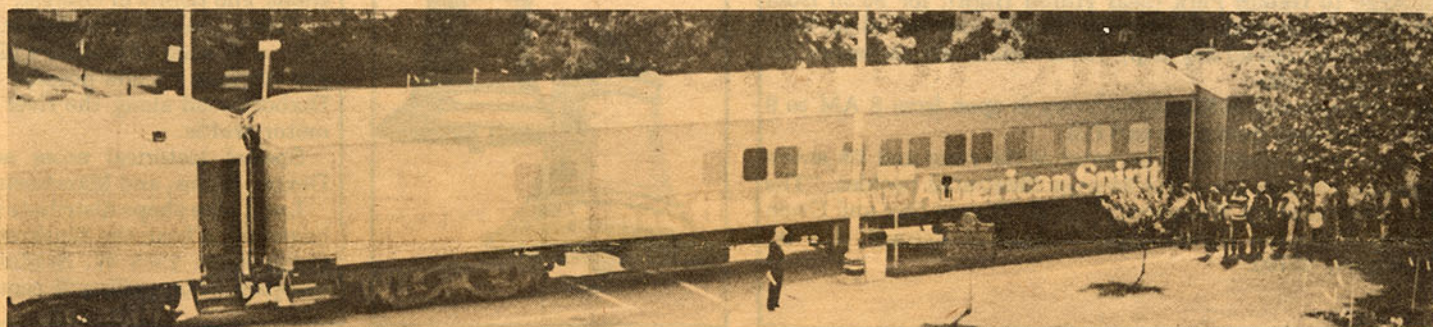
Though some of these classes are sophisticated enough to satisfy extremely discriminating athletes and performers, the fees are quite moderate, and scholarships are available. As a result, some classes are filled up immediately after registration, which began May 16 and continues until classes start (toward the end of June in most cases.)

The catalog also lists hours for public swimming pools, ice skating, and the canoe livery.

## Tour Ann Arbor's Waste Treatment Plant

See for yourself what's at the source of the controversial sewer hook-up ban. Group tours of Ann Arbor's Waste Water Treatment Plant at 49 South Dixboro Road can be arranged in advance. There the effluent from the city's sanitary sewers is treated and returned to the Huron River.

The plant's chemist conducts the one-hour tour, which is considered too technical for young children. He's on duty Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. To arrange a time compatible with his schedule, call the treatment plant (994-2811) a week in advance.



## Artrain Visits Ann Arbor

The Michigan Artrain will make its first appearance in Ann Arbor from June 13 through July 31. The Ann Arbor Art Association is sponsoring the project, which was originally intended to bring art in a non-traditional setting to people outside urban areas. Four cars house the Artrain exhibition; the caboose contains the staff office.

Visitors, rather than filing through the cars in line, can control their own pace, we are told.

The art works displayed are on loan from many Michigan museums. Under the theme "A Celebration of the Creative American Spirit," the exhibits include:

- *Michigan at the Turn of the Century*—slides of old photographs illustrating changes in technology and life styles in the state;
- *Common Objects as Art*—a collection of carefully designed and crafted everyday items, including a wooden Indian and an antique automobile head lamp;

- *The Eye of the Camera*—a retrospective of American culture as seen by a century of distinguished photographers, with music of the periods of the various photographs;
- *Numbers and Letters*—depicting the evolution of signs;
- *The American Land*—a selection of landscape paintings and prints, with special focus on illustrating the growth of Detroit;
- *Made in U.S.A.*—contrasting old and new versions of items like cameras;
- *Contemporary Directions*—a selection of relatively recent American paintings, including works by Charles Burchfield and Ben Shahn.

In the baggage car, special demonstrations of techniques such as print-making and pottery will take place.

The Artrain will be on the Ann Arbor Railroad between Crisler Arena and Hoover, alongside Ferry Field. Admission is free; donations are accepted. Park in the Crisler parking lot. For more details, call the Ann Arbor Art Association, 994-8004.

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# LEISURE NOTES

## Huron River Canoeing Guide

Canoeing on the Huron River lets you get away from it all without going very far away. To help you navigate, there's an excellent sheet of four "Huron River Canoeing Maps" published and distributed free of charge by the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority. The maps cover the entire river, from its origin west of Pontiac, through Kensington Metropark, past Portage Lake to Dexter, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Belleville, and into Lake Erie south of Gibraltar.

Portages, canoe liveries, launching sites, toilets, water, and campgrounds are all noted. Roads and train trestles over the river are marked on the map.

The maps may be obtained from the Argo Canoe Livery in Ann Arbor (see below) or from the Hudson Mills Metropark office, 8801 N. Territorial Road, Dexter 48130 (phone 426-8211).

The Argo Canoe Livery, operated by the city's Parks and Recreation Department, is at 1055 Longshore Drive on the north side. (Phone 668-7411). Canoes can be rented by the hour or trip. Package trip fees include pickup or dropoff, all equipment, and a river briefing. For \$5.00 you can rent a canoe for three hours from Argo to Gallup Park (near Huron High); for \$6.50 from Delhi Mills Metropark to Argo (5 hours); and for \$8.50 from Dexter to Argo (an all day trip). Reservations are necessary for the two longer rides.

On weekends and holidays the livery is open from 8 AM to 9 PM; on weekdays from noon to 8 PM.

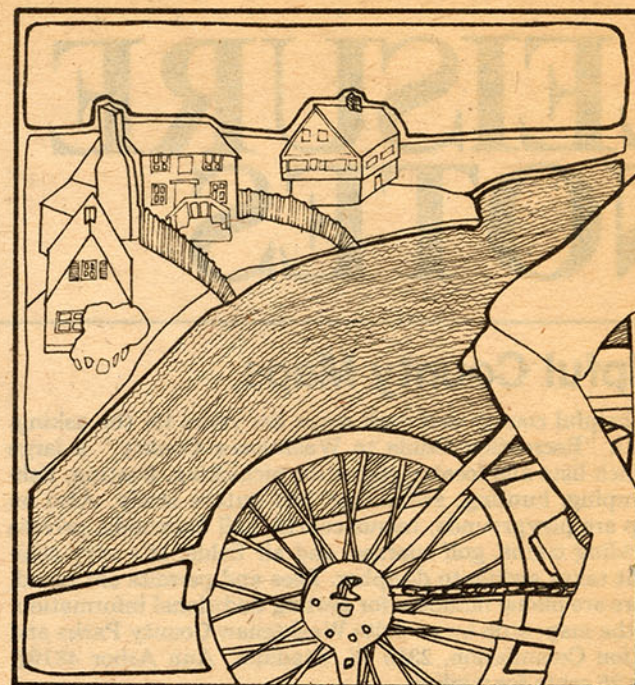
To learn more about the character of the river and its entire watershed, you can get a free 34-page illustrated booklet, "The Huron River and Its Watershed," by E. Wayne Say and Owen Jansson. Write the Huron River Watershed Council, 415 W. Washington, 48103.

## Summer Carillon Recitals

The U-M's Baird Carillon in Burton Memorial Tower is considered one of the finest in the world. Its 55 bronze bells (the largest weighing twelve tons) can be heard across much of the city, depending on which way the wind is blowing. This summer's series of carillon concerts includes some of Europe's top carillonneurs, as well as the U-M's own distinguished carillonneur, Hudson Ladd.

The concerts will be held every Monday evening from 7 to 8 p.m. from June 6 through September 26. There will also be three special concerts: July 4 at 2 p.m., July 21 at 7:30 p.m., and September 23 at 7:30 p.m.

The best place to sit is right below the carillon on the grass of Ingalls Mall.



J. WILSON-PETERS

## Ten Bike Trips in a Free Guide

"Bike Rides in Washtenaw County" is a new free publication from the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission and the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Urban Area Transportation Study. It's an attractive portfolio containing route maps and a detailed county map indicating all the county's marked bike paths. Each route map notes the terrain, traffic conditions, locations of bike shops, and points of interest.

This guide will help the cyclist avoid the gravel trucks, killer hills, and other obstacles, while pointing out interesting routes. For example it's now possible to cycle from central Ann Arbor to Dixboro road along the river via bicycle paths separated from motor traffic.

Special historical notes accompany the trips to Chelsea, Dexter, Saline, and Manchester.

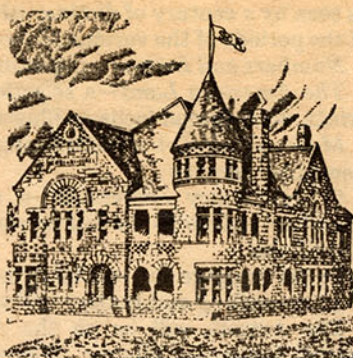
Local bike shops distribute the free cycling guide. It may also be obtained from the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission 2235 W. Stadium, Ann Arbor 48103, either by stopping by or mailing 25 cents.

## Rich Archeological Finds

Ancient gold jewelry, carved stucco figurines, bronze tweezers, silver coins, and cosmetic pots are among 180 objects on display through Sept. 15 at The University of Michigan Kelsey Museum of Ancient and Mediaeval Archaeology.

The exhibition, entitled "Seleucia on the Tigris," includes objects which date from 319 B.C. to 215 A.D. and were uncovered during U-M excavations in Iraq during 1927-32 and 1936-37. Most of the items are being exhibited for the first time.

The display was conceived and organized by U-M grad-



uate student Elizabeth Savage who has also authored a 60-page accompanying catalog with illustrations and brief essays on the various categories of objects in

the show.

Located 40 miles south of Bagdad, Seleucia on the Tigris was founded in 319 B.C. by Alexander the Great's general Seleucius Sicator. The city became an important center of trade, "in its heyday, a Hellenistic center the equal of Alexandria in Egypt," according to Savage.

"It had a far-flung trade which encompassed Afghanistan, India, Ceylon, Africa, and even the Baltic. Articles traded included jewels such as rubies, ambers and garnets, as well as ivory, pearls, iron, and gold."

"In 43 B.C. Seleucia came

under the direct rule of the Parthians, a bellicose people from the Central Asian Steppes whose vast empire was matched only by Rome. At one time the Parthians even seized the standard of the Roman army in battle. After Sassanian and Islamic occupation in later periods, Seleucia ended up as an unimportant village."

Given this history of trade and foreign domination, Seleucia's minor arts represent an eclectic merge of East and West, according to Savage.

"At first, Seleucia's art was clearly Hellenistic, with naturalistic Greek gods and

floral motifs appearing on coins and in stucco. Gradually, however, it evolved under the Eastern influence of the Parthians and indigenous peoples to become more stylized Eastern art, with abstract motifs and the depiction of warriors and kings."

The Kelsey Museum is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and 1 to 4 p.m. weekends.

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